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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 20

July 25, 1942

DELAWARE (July 1).--Through cooperation labor committees and vocational agriculture departments over 400 school children enrolled for farm labor. Committee agreed on standard pay schedule for farm labor to be used from migratory labor camp located near Woodside.

State divided into 55 communities, with approximately 700 neighborhoods. Farm families showing splendid cooperation.

Annual homemakers' short course, held during June with 103 farm women attending, devoted program to defense activities.

State-USDA War Board certified 2 additional canneries. 80 percent of canneries in State have been certified for tomatoes. Farm construction certification committee certified 4 requests and made a review of reported illegal construction.

Summary of 1943 production goals completed and submitted to Washington.

Plans made for development wartime fertilizer recommendations to be presented as printed circular.

Annual 4-H Club Short Course, attended by 212 members and leaders. Program included information on chemical warfare, farm fire prevention and control, farm problems, clothing, canning, and first aid.

Plans made for wartime extension circulars on timely topics.

FLORIDA (July 15).--Reports reveal farm families have practically reached goal set by USDA in doubling number farm gardens.

Food conservation interests both rural and urban women; many who never canned before now doing so. Information on improved methods supplied by home agents and home demonstration women. One county reports 23,347 containers canned in defense canning center.

All counties with home agents have conducted nutrition schools which emphasized best use of available foods for health and economy. More than 50 steam-pressure cooker clinics have been held in as many communities. Sewing-machine clinics planned.

Increased use of cotton for clothes stressed because of suitability for Florida climate, its economy, and general utility. Model low-cost wardrobes and work clothes have been exhibited.

Some 6,000 rural men and women serving as community leaders: doing such jobs as explaining price ceilings, sugar rationing, and home canning.

Annual State 4-H short courses canceled. Agents staging county camps and short courses combined. Training in wartime skills is provided 4-H members, in addition to recreation afforded at camp. In 2 counties the Red Cross Canteen Corps used girls' 4-H short course as a practical time to get their training in mass feeding. They prepared and served 555 meals under the direction of the home agents.

KANSAS (July 15).--With the Neighborhood Leadership organization practically completed reports show 15,150 leaders representing 1,549 townships in 103 organized counties. Publication covering wartime activities will be sent periodically to leaders.

Food-preservation training meetings for Neighborhood Leaders completed in most counties with 2,473 leaders trained, and 8,557 women attending public demonstrations given by emergency nutritionists. Emergency nutritionists continuing to serve in non-home demonstration agent counties and will give instruction to Neighborhood Leaders and 4-H Club food leaders in food preservation, food storage, and fall gardens. Will train 4-H Club members to give public demonstrations. Also will train county nutrition committees in their duties and responsibilities. Study of the adequacy of farm people's gardens being made through use of food production score card by means of a "spot check" by emergency nutritionists.

Slide film "Tailoring a Cotton Dress" being used by agents for small groups to encourage home production of clothing. Bulletin "Your Wardrobe Needs - Construction Principles" issued for use by agents, club girls, specialists, and volunteer leaders. Counties progressing with home-improvement program, emphasis being placed on improvement and repair. Plans being made for extensive work in recreation for the family as a means of maintaining morale.

Starting June 15, entire State covered with educational meetings for crop insurance; district agents and county agents assisting. Indications crop insurance in Kansas will be increased in 1943.

Farm planning and finance in wartime stressed in county summary meetings of farm-management associations, 21 counties. Further assisting farmers in checking records and plans for 1942 production.

KENTUCKY (July 15).--Full-time worker assigned to supervision of neighborhood leadership programs. Attached to director's office and will cooperate in the field with all branches of the service to bring about most effective use of neighborhood leadership system in support of war effort. Neighborhood and community maps completed all counties. Every county being visited to determine extent neighborhood quotas of leaders have been filled, ascertain degree to which each leader understands his responsibilities and families he or she is to contact, and make sure every family knows that a leader has been assigned to work with them. Attention also given to resulting activities of farm families which can be attributed to contacts made through the leader system, and to preparation and channeling of information for leaders.

Great interest manifested in labor exchange, labor pools, and full use power machinery. In many localities neighborhood or community leaders are serving as information centers for labor supply and custom work or cooperative use of power machinery.

Home demonstration agents concentrating on following activities: Working with agricultural agents to complete organization neighborhood leaders, and training of neighborhood and community leaders in program to control cost of living; holding county training meetings on canning and drying of fruits and vegetables. Following county meetings, plans made to take canning information, through community and neighborhood meetings and personal contacts, to as many families as can possibly be reached. To aid in the drying program, small leaflet prepared and five sets drying equipment models for outdoor use and in the home constructed for use of those giving demonstrations.

State conference home demonstration agents on wartime activities. Discussions included: Developments in consumer field in all phases homemaking brought about by shortage or rationing, substitutes, etc.; fall gardens and insect control, and winter storage vegetables; prospective programs for neighborhood leaders; adjustments in plans and procedures to meet needs present emergency; home and community recreation as morale-building activity.

4-H salvage committees taking active part in collecting rubber. Reports one-third counties show 460-311 pounds collected. At 4-H conservation camp stress was laid on part boys could perform in war effort, particularly in producing and conserving food. For handicraft they made food and vegetable drying racks. Similar camp held for negro 4-H Club members.

LOUISIANA (July 1).--Under the leadership of the Louisiana Extension Service approximately 97 percent farm families have home gardens. Goal of 148,200 gardens fixed by USDA for 1942 will be exceeded by 20,000. Above figures do not include thousands of back-lot gardens in urban centers.

Rural women engaged in round-up of canners and sealers for joint neighborhood programs in food preservation. Repair clinics established in many communities to rehabilitate damaged equipment. Round-up also includes surplus jars and other containers to care for State's mammoth summer canning program.

Urged and assisted by extension agents, Louisiana farmers have pledged themselves to produce, in excess of 1941 acreages, 103,000 acres soybeans, 50,000 acres peanuts, 55,000 acres rice, 5,000 acres home gardens, 2,000 milk cows, 26,000 beef cattle, 10,000 hogs, and 3,000,000 dozen eggs. In addition an undetermined acreage of feed crops will be required to take care of increases in livestock and poultry.

Over 300,000 dozen eggs from Louisiana poultry yards processed up to June 20 for lend-lease shipment. Product comprised 75 carloads. Orders for 250,000 pounds dried onions placed with St. Francisville dehydration plant, in addition 1,000,000 pounds dried sweetpotatoes.

Nearly 200,000 children in 2,100 schools received wholesome school lunches during peak month of school year. Total 6,200,000 lunches served during winter term. Program continued in rural communities during summer vacation under direction home demonstration and community organizations.

Seed to plant 47,000 acres peanuts delivered in State for production under war board's program. Many farmers followed spring potatoes with peanuts. First machines for picking peanuts delivered in Washington Parish where 2,000 acres planted to the commodity.

MAINE (July 15).--All agents provided with information on maximum price regulations, and agents held over 100 neighborhood-leader meetings in June to complete their organization and give timely information. Material prepared for press on how price regulations affect farm families and published in 14 County Farm Bureau News, going into homes of over 14,000 members. Home demonstration agents discussed subject at over 170 meetings in June. June issue of "Victory Chats" given over to simple questions and answers on the maximum price regulation.

In Aroostook County the Army wants pasteurized milk; county agent and marketing specialist working with group of producers in developing pasteurizing plant.

Machinery repair demonstrations held in 60 communities with over 1,000 farmers in attendance. Seven county agents trained to do this work without assistance of specialist.

MARYLAND (July 17).--Practically every rural family in State reached through neighborhood leaders with information on six war measures -- rubber salvage; fuel for winter; control of cost of living; fire prevention and control; how gasoline rationing program applies to farmers; fat salvage.

Handbook on fire prevention and control program supplied each agent outlining in detail procedure setting up program in county. Agents holding conferences at all interested agencies in counties to map out program with 3 major objectives: Use of neighborhood leaders in contacting all rural families with check sheets of fire hazards and farm fire-fighting tools; recruiting and training young people as fire watchers; recruiting, organizing, and training auxiliary firemen and forest fire wardens.

Wheat storage survey showed terminal facilities available sufficient to meet about one-third needs. Agents helping AAA committeemen allocate available space, and advising farmers how to qualify for loans on wheat stored on farms, and precautions to take with wheat in storage.

In Victory Garden program, control of insects, conservation of vegetables now ready for harvest, and planting vegetables for late summer and fall given attention. Educational program on methods of conserving fruits with limited quantities sugar is of widespread interest.

How to care for garments on hand and get the most from them is of rapidly increasing interest in the clothing program.

NEW MEXICO (July 1).--Educational program to control cost of living now reaching down into counties and communities. At the district conferences in June, educational charts and leaflets presented to county agents with request that orders be placed for sufficient number for use their Victory Councilmen. To date 151 charts and 26,909 leaflets distributed. Charts used by agents in conducting educational meetings, and leaflets used by councilmen. Reports indicate councilmen have explained program to 4,794 farm families. 98 meetings held for Victory Councilmen and 689 councilmen contacted by other means. County agents held 52 community meetings. Also program presented by home demonstration agents before 83 home demonstration clubs with 1,142 rural women in attendance, and at 57 4-H Club meetings with 1,020 in attendance. Program publicized through 15 radio programs and 31 newspaper articles.

Agents continue to take leading part in Food-for-Freedom program, and preliminary check on 4-H Club enrollment indicates 50 percent of clubs will qualify as Food-for-Freedom 4-H Clubs.

Agents cooperating in rubber salvage program, and councilmen have assisted materially.

As means increasing participation 4-H Club members in purchase war stamps and bonds, club specialist has inaugurated use war saving stamp thermometers which show amounts purchased by clubs. This activity creating much interest.

Grasshopper outbreaks in approximately 50 percent counties necessitated effort on part agents to establish mixing stations and supervising bait distribution.

NEW YORK (July 15).--To meet additional requests from Victory Garden Councils, County Defense Councils, County Nutrition Committees, etc., for help in food preservation, 12 part-time workers employed to teach in counties where demand is greater than trained personnel could answer. Employment made possible by appropriation from State War Council. These workers are practical homemakers with experience in home-food preservation who have attended State and county training schools. Scheduled to teach in 33 counties a total of 70 weeks. In some counties they will train local leaders who in turn will teach in small communities throughout county; in other counties they are giving demonstrations to community groups or helping to set up community canning centers.

Farm labor still a major problem. WFB Regional Labor Supply Committee has recommended that county agents submit weekly reports on county farm-labor situation with suggestions for meeting it at State level.

Homemakers and 4-H Club members interested in doing some experimental work in drying of foods to determine procedure best suited to individual needs. Plans worked out for different types of dryers that can be inexpensively made at home.

Tompkins County sponsored a Nutrition Week with slogan "Make Tompkins County Strong;" Extension, schools, public-welfare officials, Boy and Girl Scouts, food dealers, and others cooperated. Over 40 volunteer chairmen arranged for activities in towns of county. Demonstrations on sugar-saving dishes and food preservation held in districts. Illustrated lecture for all restaurant managers in county given by college of home economics. Each noon a 5-minute talk on some aspect of food-and-fitness program given over local radio station. Three 15-minute round-table discussions on problems of food broadcast. Moving-picture houses showed "Hidden Hunger." The mobile kitchen, developed at the college of home economics, on exhibit at 4 communities in county. Women enrolled in Red Cross canteen course using mobile kitchen in these communities prepared and served food at nominal cost. Exhibits set up in store windows. Library arranged special exhibits of books on foods and nutrition.

To assist in rationing program, 3 extension agents Wyoming County, in cooperation county rationing board, set up 29 community centers where families may obtain blanks for sugar for canning and help in making them out correctly, thereby saving farm and village families an estimated minimum of 75,000 miles of travel.

Working with Division of Civilian Mobilization of State War Council to reach city people with a fuller explanation of inflation control program.

Victory Garden Harvest Show staged in Wayne County in connection annual Festival of Roses. Exhibits and demonstrations all phases of Victory Garden Program included in 2-day event. Hourly canning demonstrations given by members Wayne County Home Bureau and 4-H Clubs. Correct methods vegetable storage, both in and out of doors, demonstrated. Proceeds to Army Emergency and Navy Relief.

Farm fire-prevention program, under leadership county club agents, off to good start. Local fire-insurance companies and firemen's associations cooperating.

Practically all counties using Minutemen in salvage campaigns. In Fat Salvage home demonstration agents asked to work with local homemakers in towns of 2,500 or less throughout State in explaining need for fat conservation.

Home Bureau Albany County opened "Mendery," for teaching homemakers repair and mending all kinds clothing and household textiles. Thirty carefully trained local leaders volunteering their time. "Mendery" open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and Thursday evenings for soldiers and sailors who want to learn to sew on buttons and mend their socks.

NORTH DAKOTA (July 15).--Organization neighborhood leaders completed all counties with 1 leader for every 10 farm families. First task of leaders, now nearly completed, was to carry price control information to all farm families. Satisfactory response definitely indicated. Planning carefully to give leaders only important jobs relating directly to war program. Weekly information letter to carry condensed facts to leaders being set up; will be localized and distributed direct from county offices.

In price control program effort made to present facts from standpoint of farm people's stake in price control. Leaflet interpreting program supplied all leaders. Second leaflet prepared and distributed, with aid of leaders, to all farm families.

Planting phase Victory Garden campaign brought to climax and attention now given to management and care to insure successful production. Educational activities in utilizing and conserving garden products in full swing. Special stress given preservation methods to conserve critical supplies of rubber and metal. Storage to be featured in August.

Extension helped organize farm-to-farm labor situation survey. Completed data made available to guide employment service in meeting labor requirements. Recruitment plans developed for some areas to make help available at peak of harvest, threshing.

Cooperation mutual fire insurance associations obtained for stepping up fire prevention educational work. Special phase of effort being directed through 4-H Clubs. Fire insurance associations making funds available for awards to encourage club members to participate. Circular calling attention to principal farm fire hazards published and given wide distribution.

Educational work and demonstrations on livestock sanitation, directed especially at sheep, hogs, and poultry, aimed at cutting down losses from disease and parasites. Effort accompanied by renewed attention to improved feeding methods. Saving of all available feed urged. Grain storage problem concentrated on during recent weeks. Circular prepared on storage construction. Circulars on emergency storage and grain handling in preparation. Grasshopper control operations under way.

Scrap iron and rubber salvage drives completed. Campaign to save fats now under way.

OREGON (July 1).--Six central extension staff teams during week June 22-27 met with county extension staff and farm leaders every county to set up neighborhood leader plan. County meetings followed by community leader-training meetings planned to discuss neighborhood leader plan, the Nation's program to control inflation, and transportation. State divided into districts with central staff team (1 man and 1 woman) assigned to each district consisting of six counties. Planned to continue this assignment for the duration.

Special handbook on "The Nation's Program To Control Inflation" prepared for neighborhood leaders. 10,000 copies to be distributed to leaders along with 100,000 check cards to give rural families.

Agreement reached between farm organizations, State USDA War Board, Office of ICC, and ODT, in setting up county farm transportation committees. As assistance to these committees and to county agents in servicing them, Oregon Experiment Station assembling by counties list of farm-owned trucks with name of owner, address, capacity, and model.

In every county but one the county agent is secretary of the war board. Salvage campaigns aided, assistance given in obtaining materials for farm storage, and factual information provided Selective Service boards on farming operations of registrants for whom deferment had been requested as farm laborers.

County agents assisted farm labor subcommittees in each county with critical farm labor problem. During June these committees have: Gained cooperation of business concerns in closing their businesses and releasing employees to work on farms; assisted in mobilizing women, boys, and girls from towns and cities to harvest seasonal fruit crops; assisted in supplying transportation for these workers from town to country and return.

In war emergency work in family food supply and nutrition, particular emphasis given food preservation, canning, freezing, drying, curing, and storage, with 222 meetings held attended by 4,824. In all home economics work there were 1,040 subject matter meetings held in June with an attendance of 28,980. At 30 training meetings 528 leaders were trained, and these leaders held 627 meetings attended by 20,556.

The 1942 4-H Club summer school held on the State college campus had for its theme "The Part of 4-H Clubs in National Defense." 1,879 4-H Club members, 65 voluntary local leaders, and over 100 extension agents and instructors attended. 90 percent of delegates attending had purchased war bonds, and 100 percent had participated in one or more salvage programs. 2,024 4-H Club members had Victory Gardens this year, compared with 371 in 1941.